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GENERAL-PURPOSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a general-purpose management system for business management and administration including financial management, inventory management, personnel management and construction management in shops, offices and enterprises.

2. Description of the Prior Art

Business management and administration in shops, offices and enterprises take on a variety of forms. Owing to the present availability of small computers at a comparatively low cost, attempts are being made to implement management of the type described by using computer systems Some of these attempts have been partially successful. However, the conventional computer management systems are still functionally inadequate and not easy to use. The reason is that management is of a wide variety of types each of which is implemented individually.

Let us take an engineering firm as an example. In order for such a firm to do business, the types of management necessary include financial management such as the preparation of ledgers for payments, accounts payable and accounts not yet paid, cost accounting, profit-and-loss accounting and the preparation of statements of accounts; inventory management for ascertaining the amount of available stocks of materials and the like; construction management such as the preparation of written estimates, the making of entries in construction ledgers, totalization classified by construction site, the preparation of work progress tables classified by construction site and the preparation of lists classified by individual, department and site; and personnel management including the preparation of totals tables classified by individual and site. Despite the fact that these various management items are mutually related, each type of management is performed separately of the others in the prior art. For example, financial management is executed by the individual in charge of financial affairs, while inventory management is performed by the person in charge at the construction site or by the individual in charge of the purchase of materials. When materials have been acquired, the amount of stock of that material increases accordingly and results in an account that must be paid. Accordingly, the purchase of material is a basic factor resulting in a change that must be taken into account not only in inventory management but also in financial management. With the conventional computer management system, a change in one factor requires that an operator perform input processing two or more times. Moreover, there are many cases where the input format (the document used for making inputs)) differs for each and every management item. Accurate input processing in such a situation is impossible unless the operator is highly experienced.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to provide a general-purpose management system wherein basic data for management of a variety of types can be inputted using a document or format of a single type, and wherein management of any desired type can be realized using the inputted basic data.

According to the present invention, the foregoing object is attained by providing a general-purpose man-

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agement system comprising: means for displaying a single general format on a display unit in order that items which are redundant in plural types of management to be performed independently, as well as items peculiar to each type of management, may be inputted successively; a first file for collectively storing data relating to each of said items inputted in accordance with the display; a plurality of second files for storing data necessary for each type of management on a type-by-type basis with regard to the plural types of management to be performed independently; means which, in dependence upon the type of management to be performed independently, is adapted to extract data necessary for this management from the first file and transfer the data to a corresponding one of the second files; and means for preparing data necessary for a specific type of management and outputting these data in accordance with a predetermined format on the basis of the data in the first file and the data transferred to the corresponding one of the second files.

In accordance with the invention, a single format is used for dealing with plural types of management, and all data necessary for these types of management can inputted in the single format. Since input formats are consolidated in the form of the single format, anyone can master the format quickly and perform the required input processing rapidly and accurately. Data that appear redundantly in plural types of management can be inputted in a single input operation, thus eliminating unnecessary input steps. After these collective input data are entered, they are stored for each type of management in a file conforming to the particular management type. This enables plural types of management to be performed individually. Furthermore, since management of a variety of types can be achieved by a single system, little installation space is required and hardware economy is improved.

These and other characterizing features of the present invention will become clear from a description of preferred embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating the general hardware configuration of a general-purpose management system;

FIG. 2 is a view illustrating the format of a transfer a hard disc;

FIGS. 3a and 3b, are views depicting master files provided in a hard disc;

FIGS. 4a and 4b, are views illustrating examples of data files;

FIGS. 5a and 5b, are views showing the relationship among input/output, documents and ledgers;

FIG. 6 is a flowchart illustrating an example of processing (for transfer slip preparation) for inputting relevant data when goods are received;

FIG. 7 is a flowchart illustrating an example of processing for inputting data relating to labor expenses;

FIG. 8 is a flowchart illustrating an example of data output processing;

FIGS. 9 and 10 are views useful in describing the chaining of a file;

FIG. 11 is a flowchart illustrating processing for outputting data relating to construction;

FIG. 12 is a view showing an inventory list; and